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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: May 15, 2003

TO: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Examiner Julian A. Mercado
Group Art Unit: 1745

RE: U.S. Patent Application S.N. 09/622,615
Inventor: Mitsuzou NOGAMI et al.
Attorney Docket No. 000774

FROM: Daniel A. Geselowitz, Ph.D.

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Attention: Examiner Julian A. Mercado
Group Art Unit: 1745

Re: U.S. Patent Application S.N. 09/622,615
Inventor: Mitsuzou NOGAMI et al.
Attorney Docket No. 000774

Dear Examiner Mercado:

It was good talking to you on May 15, 2003, regarding the possibility of an interview in this application. I would like to propose the following claim amendments for discussion in an interview. These **proposed amendments** would leave claims 1-5, 11 and 26 pending.

Cancel claims 12-18 and 25. Amend claims 1 and 2 as shown below.

1. (Twice Amended) A sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery in which an active material mainly containing nickel hydroxide is applied to a porous sintered nickel substrate, characterized in that a coating layer containing at least one hydroxide of an element selected from the group consisting of strontium Sr, scandium Sc, yttrium Y, the lanthanoid elements, and bismuth

Bi is formed only on a surface that contacts with an electrolyte solution of the active material formed on the porous sintered nickel substrate.

2. (Amended) A sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery in which an active material mainly containing nickel hydroxide is applied to a porous sintered nickel substrate, characterized in that a coating layer containing cobalt together with at least one hydroxide of an element selected from the group consisting of calcium Ca, strontium Sr, scandium Sc, yttrium Y, the lanthanoid elements, and bismuth Bi is formed only on a surface that contacts with an electrolyte solution of the active material formed on the porous sintered nickel substrate.

This amendment is supported by the claims and by the specification on page 14 (Examples A1 to A11). Reference may also be made to Figure 1.

I look forward to talking to you on Tuesday morning, May 20, 2003.

Respectfully,

Daniel A. Geselowitz, Ph.D.
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Agent for Applicants

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